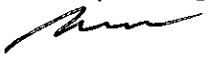




Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bob Morgan, Interim City Manager

DATE: June 4, 2009 

SUBJECT: IFYI

IFYI HIGHLIGHTS

- Byrne/JAG Grants
- Fire Grant
- Elm Street Parking Public Meeting
- Director Positions Advertised
- Fire Station Grand Opening Celebration
- Funding for Sidewalks Along Lindsey Str.
- Status of Lighting on I-40
- Streetlight Maintenance Along US 29
- Status of GIS Interface re: Proposed Route of I-840

Byrne/JAG Grant

Greensboro Police Department received notice this week that we have been awarded \$950,000 in funding under this program. Some of this funding will be used for start-up costs (e.g. walkie-talkies, etc) related to 30 new officers requested under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program Grant. We are awaiting a response to this COPS Program grant request.

Fire Grant

FEMA announced the criteria for the Fire Fighter Assistance Grant this week. The Greensboro Fire Department is preparing the application. The applications are due July 10.

300 S Elm District Parking Problem-Solving Public Meeting

On May 18th elected officials and city staff met with citizens to discuss issues related to parking in the 300 block of S. Elm Street. Participants identified specific problems/issues and then generated potential solutions to resolve those issues. (See attached Public Meeting Minutes).

Department Director Positions Advertised

Ads soliciting applications for the positions of Parks & Recreation Director and Transportation Director are posted on the city's website. Additional ads will be placed in various professional association media.

Willow Road Fire Station Grand Opening Celebration

The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 from 11 AM – 2 PM. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Funding for Sidewalks Along Lindsey Street

GDOT will request the Engineering and Inspections Department to begin design for sidewalk along the north side of Lindsay Street from Murrow Boulevard to Bessemer Avenue. Within 2 to 3 years design plans should be complete and funding should be secured to build this section of sidewalk. Sidewalk already exists along the south side of Lindsay Street.

Status of Freeway Lighting on I-40

In order to reduce operating expenses, NCDOT has shut off the lights on I-40 from Freeman Mill Road to Sandy Ridge Road except at the interchanges.

Streetlight Maintenance Along US-29

NCDOT is totally responsible for the streetlights on US-29 North of Phillips Avenue. They have indicated that they will not be repairing these street lights within the next year because of budget issues.

The city of Greensboro and NCDOT contract with Duke Energy to maintain the street lights on US-29 south of Phillips Avenue. GDOT is renegotiating a new contract with Duke Energy to maintain these lights. The high cost of lane closures along US-29 to make repairs to these lights has forced Duke Energy to reevaluate the terms of the original contract to maintain the street lights along US-29 with the City.

Status of GIS Interface re: Proposed Route of I-840

GDOT and Enterprise Solutions staffs are working to create an interactive GIS interface that will pinpoint the exact location of a parcel of land in relation to NCDOT's most current plans for I-840. We anticipate having this GIS interface up and running in early-June.

300 S Elm District Parking Problem Solving
Public Meeting Minutes– May 18, 2009 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Individuals in Attendance: Alex Amoroso, Grey Davis, Diane Davis, Becky Causey, Gregory George, Sidney Gray, Betty Cone, Jim Marshall, Seth Marshall, Ed Wolverton, Bruce Beaman, Kevin Danko, Simonne McClinton, Willam Heroy, Michael Schifftan, John Bailey, Catherine Chauvin, Pat Sawyer.

Council Representative: Zack Matheny - District 3

Staff: Adam Fischer, Michael Cramer, Robin Davenport, Dee Brown.

Facilitator: Sue Schwartz

Agenda

Welcome and Meeting Overview: Councilmember Zack Matheny & Michael Cramer

- Goal of the Meeting: Ask participants to help us understand the issues related to parking in the 300 block of S. Elm St and to help develop strategies to resolve those issues

Facilitation Activity: Sue Schwartz

- Sticky Note Exercise – What are the Issues or Problems with Parking?
– What are the Suggestions to Solve the Issues?

Results

Issues:

1. Valet Parking (1)
 - Not well understood.
 - How does it benefit downtown?
 - Amount of space taken up (200 block)
2. Loading Zones (6)
 - Concern over location
 - Enforcement
 - Size of Truck Only Spaces
 - Request for Easier Customer Drop Off and Pick Up
 - Delivery Trucks parking in middle of street
3. More Public Parking Needed (14)
 - Employees need good parking off street – save curbside for customers
 - Too Few Metered Spaces
 - Need a New Deck in the Area
 - Increase number of quick parking spaces
 - Not enough spots open to public
 - Need more parking (2)
 - Perceived lack of parking
 - Need more short term spaces
 - Need more parking spaces
 - More parking needed mid-block to support retailers and restaurants with peak & valley crowds

- Need more parking after 7:00 pm – 12pm
 - Where to park after 5:00 pm –Thur/Fri/Sat
 - Not Enough Spaces
4. Parking Decks (3)
- Need a New Deck in the Area
 - Deck Parking too far away
 - Deck parking must soften with residential and retail front
5. Free Parking Inequitable (3)
- FREE at night NOT FREE Daytime
 - Free at night should in day
 - Parking after 7:00pm & weekend/nights
6. Motorcycle Parking (3)
- Need Motorcycle Space (2)
 - Why 1 Motorcycle per space
7. Signage (3)
- Private Lots not always clearly marked - people get towed
 - Signage inside Greene St Deck needs to be better – people fear getting “Lost”
 - Not enough signage leading people to parking (Where they won’t get towed)
8. Homeless (6)
- Homeless at park & kiosks
 - Bothered by homeless at central meter
 - Homeless in garages and city lots
 - Vagrant Harassment
 - Panhandlers attracted to master meter
 - Panhandlers hanging out at pay meter
9. Traffic (1)
- Traffic doesn’t move between 7 – 10pm
 - Traffic on 300 Block
10. Safety / Visibility (4)
- Pathway from Greene St Deck south better lit and cut too at city lot – sketchy at times
 - Better lighting of alleys and side streets
 - Clearly Marked Ped Paths
 - Limited walking access to parking deck at Green St
11. Comments
- City said in Feb they would find parking. What was done?
12. Lack of Enforcement (10)
- Police are not writing tickets on street

- Parking police not consistent (They have buddies they don't ticket)
- Lack of enforcement (2)
- Neighbors & Residents don't abide
- Parking time limits need to be enforced
- Problem w/ long term parkers in short term spaces
- Nighttime (early evening) Enforcement
- Too many trying to use lot at 313 S. Elm St.
- Police can not be seen

13. New Pay Station (12)

- Meters on Greene St
- Ticket Machines need to be at entry points to lots
- Central Meter station
- New Meters are not user friendly
- Machines won't take coins or dollars after many times
- Pay stations
- New meters are a long walk for Handicapped, elderly and people with kids
- Meters in lot cause problems
- Paystation in surface lot
- Confusing system in Elm/McGee lot
- People don't understand how to pay
- Pay before or after

Suggestions:

1. Lack of Enforcement (7)

- More Enforcement
- Hire more enforcement
- Change towing from private lots – Ticket? – trolling bad
- Provide cell phones to enforcement officers – call in abuser situations
- More enforcement officers
- Enforce on-street (not off street) until 8 pm
- More downtown officers

2. Loading Zones (6)

- Change to loading times
- Loading times
- Eliminate Loading zones
- Loading zones – enforce
- Mark loading zones/ early delivery times
- Educate property owners and public about drop off zones

3. Valet Parking (0)

4. More Public Parking Needed (15)

- Businesses lease spaces for clients
- Use trolleys to move people to parking
- Quick Fix: Use land at S. Elm & Lee St. for Employee / Public parking and run free shuttle to Market on Friday and Sat.

- Shuttles from remote lots
- Free employee parking several blocks away
- Free employee parking – Somewhere?
- When searching for more employee spaces group together based on type of business (for safety reasons)
- Slanted parking spaces (2)
- Close off parking entrance on Elm St (There are 2 now) – lot make into 3 new spaces
- Meters on Elm St. – Monitor use
- New deck
- Build a garage at Elm / McGee lot
- New deck at Elm & Greene
- Build a mid-block deck with retail spaces on perimeter of block

5. Parking Decks (3)

- Use Valets in all garages
- Get Sheriff Barnes to provide “prisoners” labor for deck and lot cleanup with GDOT supervisor and equipment
- Assisted parking @ the decks

6. Free Parking Inequitable (3)

- Charge for Parking 24 hours
- Night charge \$1 or \$2 to park to cover officers for the Decks
- \$1.00 parking in garages at night

7. Motorcycle Parking (0)

8. Signage (1)

- Make clear/attractive signage for parking all over CBD + decks – Be consistent

9. Homeless (7)

- Make Panhandling illegal
- Ban panhandling
- Don't allow panhandling
- No panhandling in BID
- Lose the panhandlers
- Bus homeless to friendly
- Taser the homeless

10. Traffic (0)

11. Safety / Visibility (8)

- Provide more uniform, regular police officers
- Private security in evenings
- Start police walking again
- Make Green Street Lot more inviting – security camera, lights etc.
- Make alley's walkable, provide lighting

- Block off Elm St. – from 10 pm to 2pm (Quiet/Walk Safe Zone) (Keep Cross Streets Open)
- Parking Attendant in lot – 9am to 10 pm
- Improve Alley From Surface Parking to Greene St. Deck

12. Comments (9)

- Privatize parking
- Universal Pass for downtown
- How could 300 block validate parking?
- Increase maximum time from 2 hrs to 3 hrs
- Businesses give parking passes to clients
- All Access Passes for residents
- Resident zone and client zone
- Stink bombs in cars w loud music
- Stop giving developers Parking lots

13. New Pay Station (4)

- Take Spanish off parking meters
- Put meters back in Elm-McGee Lot
- Go back to single meters (1 per space)
- Individual space meters like before

Next Steps: Councilmember Zack Matheny & Michael Cramer

- Keep lines of communications open.
- Staff Develop Potential Recommendations and Review with Council
- Public Hearing of Recommendations
- Finalize Implementation Plan

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 pm